

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01
TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 XMB-02
OPIC-03 /085 W

-----011727Z 107422 /43

R 311930Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 159

INFO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, DR

SUBJ: GODR INCREASES DUTIES ON AUTOMOBILES

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 1503

1. IN REFTEL EMBASSY REPORTED NEW DOMINICAN LAW OF MARCH 24 INCREASING INTERNAL TAXES ON AUTOMOBILES ACCORDING TO BOTH VALUE AND CYLINDER DISPLACEMENT. SINCE THE DR MUST IMPORT ALL OF ITS PETROLEUM, THE MEASURE WAS TAKEN TO DISCOURAGE THE PURCHASE OF LARGER AUTOMOBILES WHICH CONSUME MORE GASOLINE.

2. ON MARCH 25 FOUR OF THE LARGEST DOMINICAN AUTOMOBILE DISTRIBUTORS CALLED TOGETHER ON THE AMBASSADOR AND THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR TO DISCUSS THE NEW MEASURE. THEY MADE THE POINT THAT AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE SALES WOULD BE PARTICULARLY AFFECTED ADVERSLY BY THE NEW LAW.

3. DURING THE CONVERSATION THE DISTRIBUTORS ADMITTED THAT THE MEASURE WAS PROMPTED BY A GROWING NEED TO CONSERVE
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ENERGY BECAUSE OF BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS CONSTRAINTS, AND THAT IT WAS SIMILAR TO MOVES NOW UNDERWAY IN THE US.

4. THEY ALSO CONCEDED THAT THE NEW MEASURE WOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN SMALLER US AUTOMOBILES AND THOSE OF THIRD-COUNTRY ORIGIN. THEY FELT, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR COMBINED TOTAL SALES OF ABOUT 450 US AUTOMOBILES

PER YEAR WOULD BE LARGELY ELIMINATED. IT WAS LEFT THAT
THE DISTRIBUTORS WOULD FORWARD TO THE EMBASSY THEIR
WRITTEN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF THE LAW.

5. COMMENT: IN REFTEL EMBASSY REPORTED DETAILS OF NEW
MEASURE AND RECENT IMPORT STATISTICS OF AUTOMOBILES
FROM THE US. OF THE 469 US PASSENGER VEHICLES ABOVE
SIX CYLINDERS WHICH WERE IMPORTED IN 1975, A VERY LARGE
PERCENTAGE WAS BROUGHT IN DUTY-FREE BY DOMINICAN MILITARY,
OTHER DOMINICAN OFFICIALS, AND MEMBERS OF FOREIGN
MISSIONS OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO CAN BRING
IN CARS DUTY-FREE. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, EMBASSY
WILL NOT RPT NOT PURSUE MATTER WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN
SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER.
HURWITCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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